

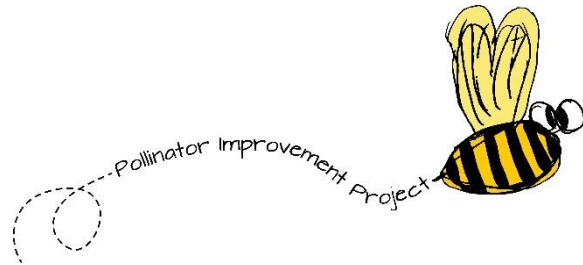


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City Partners with Community Organizations to Make 2016: The Year of the Bee

Bainbridge Island, Wash., (March, 2016) The City of Bainbridge Island is partnering with a number of community organizations to launch the Pollinator Improvement Plan and help make Bainbridge Island a better place to be a bee.



Partners involved in the Pollinator Improvement Plan are working on a number of initiatives to make the island more pollinator friendly.

At the Commodore Option School, students in grades 1-8 have been involved in a year-long study of the plight of the bees and what they can do to help ensure their survival. One of the best ways to achieve this is to use only “BEE FRIENDLY” products on your home gardens, avoiding the use of any product that contain neonicotinoids. This chemical has been linked to Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), which has decimated bee colonies worldwide. Many factors are associated with CCD, but pesticides are certainly part of the problem. Artwork and slogans were created by the students in the hope that the message they send will help Islanders make wise, healthy, “Bee Friendly” choices when buying products for their home gardens.

On April 13, garden author Ann Lovejoy will present a program covering appropriate plants, plans, and problem solving strategies for making pollinator-friendly private and public gardens. The program will occur from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers at 280 Madison Ave N. More information on the class can be found at:
<http://www.krl.org/events/protecting-pollinators-ann-lovejoy>

The PIP partners are also in the process of planning a Pollinator Awareness Week, which will occur the week of June 20 to 26. On June 14, the partners will be providing a pollinator project presentation to the City Council, which will include proposed legislation to restrict the use of neonicotinoids on public property, a presentation by Commodore Options School kids who have created a Bee’s Eye View project, and a proclamation declaring June 20-26 as Pollinator Awareness Week in perpetuity. There will be a series of pollinator focused events during that week as well.

The project will culminate in 2018 with the creation of a pollinator corridor which is currently proposed to run along Madison Avenue from Waterfront Park to Fire Station 21.

For more information on PIP, or to find out how you can get involved, contact [Amber Richards](#) or [Heather Beckmann](#) at 206.842.7633.

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About the Pollinator Improvement Project: *The Pollinator Improvement Plan (PIP) is a partnership between the City of Bainbridge Island, ASANI, Bainbridge Island School District, Bainbridge Island Fire Department, Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Parks and Recreation District, Kitsap Regional Library—Bainbridge Island Library, Bay Hay and Feed, Bloedel Reserve, Friends of the Farms, Charles Shafer, Islandwood, Sustainable Bainbridge, Sweetlife Farm, Bainbridge Community Broadcasting, and the Grow Community. The goal of the project is to increase the pollinator population on Bainbridge Island by reducing or eliminating the use of harmful pesticides, increasing habitat by creating access to green space within the built environment, and by increasing public awareness about the importance of pollinators and environmental threats they currently face. The PIP partnership is dedicated to educating our community about what we can do to help pollinators survive and thrive on Bainbridge Island.*